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system of migratory settlement may hereafter be adopted with advantage to the flocks and herds which will eventually occupy both regions. A belt of table-land would seem to stretch from east to west between the 18th and 19th parallels of south latitude; and in the mountain barrier which separates it from the plains of the seaboard are the sources of most of the affluents of the Albert, Nicholson, Flinders, and of the other rivers flowing into the Gulf. Messrs. Burke and Wills, as well as Mr. Landsborough, crossed this table-land, and were much struck with the beauty of its landscape, the richness of its vegetation, the amenity of its climate, and the indications which it presents of the existence of mineral wealth. Although it is within the tropics its elevation is sufficient to insure a mild temperature; while the peculiar formation of the country, with deep basins surrounded by chains of hills, would render comparatively easy the construction of reservoirs to hold the great annual fall of rain. On the whole, this region holds out the promise of being ere long overspread by that tide of population which is gradually creeping up the eastern seaboard of Queensland, and which will naturally flow round towards the Gulf when it reaches the York Peninsula.

“The projected establishment of a settlement at Cape York, and the proposed temporary annexation to Queensland of the territory sketched above, will vastly accelerate its colonization by securing to the intending settlers the advantages of certain communication, of armed protection, and of regular civil government.”

4. *Extracts of a Despatch from His Excellency SIR H. BARKLY to the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, in reference to Messrs. Burke and Wills, Mr. Landsborough, Mr. Walker, Mr. Howitt, and Mr. McKinlay, dated Melbourne, April 23rd, 1862.*

“I AM happy to be enabled to state that Her Majesty's colonial steamer, *Victoria* has since returned from her voyage, bringing the most satisfactory account of the operations both of the party under Mr. Landsborough, which she carried round from Moreton Bay, and of that under Mr. Walker, which travelled overland from the Fitzroy River, and reached the appointed rendezvous on the Albert early in December, after discovering traces of Mr. Burke near the mouth of the Flinders, the river he was supposed to have struck.

“A full report of this most important and interesting journey will be found in the Parliamentary Papers which I enclose; as also of the expedition to the South-west, on which Mr. Landsborough, as

arranged, started shortly after arriving in the Gulf, and from which he was driven back by want of water at the end of three months, after penetrating about 200 miles. A map of both routes is appended to the Reports.

"Ignorant of the fate of Burke and his companions, Mr. Walker, of course, lost no time, after replenishing his stores, in returning to the Flinders with the view of following up the tracks he had found, whithersoever they might lead him. He left on the 20th December, and has not since been heard of; but as he had five months' full rations, and expected it would take him four at least if he had to go the Cooper Creek Dépôt, there is no reason to fear as to his safety. On returning from his attempt to reach McDouall Stuart's tracks in the south-west, Mr. Landsborough likewise felt it his duty to proceed in quest of Burke, although Captain Norman of the *Victoria*, who had been placed in command of the whole expedition, was very reluctant that any needless risk should be run, and gave his assent solely on the ground that the first party might possibly miss the trail.

"Mr. Landsborough would leave the Albert about the middle of February, and cannot therefore be looked for until two months hence, unless, following an erroneous idea which he seems to have imbibed, that certain tracks seen far to the eastward by Messrs. Cornish and Buchanan, of Queensland, were those of Burke (instead of, as is far more probable, notwithstanding the lapse of time, those of Leichhardt), he finds his way back to Brisbane without coming to the dépôt on Cooper Creek at all.

"To guard against every contingency, however, instructions have been sent to Mr. Howitt to remain at that spot until tidings as to the safety of both the return parties from Carpentaria are obtained: and as that gentleman has skilfully contrived to open up communication with the out-settlements of South Australia, from which he is enabled to procure ample supplies, there is no doubt of his holding his ground till directed to retire.

"At the date of the last accounts he was about returning from Mount Hopeless to endeavour to ascertain what had become of the expedition under the South-Australian leader McKinlay, which has not been heard of since January; and as he has established most friendly relations with all the Cooper Creek tribe of aborigines, there is every prospect of his being able to afford aid if needed.

"Your Grace will thus perceive that the country between Lake Torrens and the Gulf of Carpentaria is likely to be thoroughly explored in almost every direction; whilst the further it is examined the less reason there appears to be to suppose that any great por-

tion of it is hopelessly barren, or even ill-suited for pastoral purposes. Walker passed through much rich volcanic soil; whilst Landsborough describes even the poorest and driest he traversed as "fair sheep country."

"It only remains that I should notice the highly valuable Report made by Captain Norman himself on the whole expedition, including his ascent of the Flinders River in boats for nearly 50 miles; and it will be impossible, I am sure, to peruse his Journal without perceiving, in spite of the modest and plain language in which it is kept, that to the prudence, energy, perseverance, and skill of this officer the successful issue of the voyage and the safety of the exploring parties are mainly due.

"But for the exertions of himself and those under his orders in getting off the *Firefly* tender when wrecked in Torres Straits, and towing her round to the Gulf, the horses on board must have been lost, and the designs of Mr. Landsborough frustrated; whilst to his timely forethought, in at once putting all hands on reduced rations after the delay and loss of stores occasioned by this accident, is solely to be attributed his ability to keep his ship a month at least longer on the berth than was anticipated, so as to admit of that gentleman's return to the Albert, and also his being enabled to supply both expeditions with fresh supplies for a five months' return journey overland."

5. *Extracts of a Despatch from His Excellency SIR GEORGE BOWEN to the DUKE OF NEWCASTLE, in reference to Mr. Landsborough's arrival at Menindie, and Mr. Walker's arrival at Port Denison, dated Queensland, July 8th, 1862.*

"I HAVE the honour herewith to transmit a copy of the letter in which Mr. Landsborough, the Queensland explorer, reports his arrival in the settled districts of New South Wales, with the entire party under his command, 'in safety and in good health,' after having crossed the Australian continent from the Gulf of Carpentaria.

"This eminent success will be most important in its results to the progress and settlement of this colony, while it is very gratifying to myself and to the members of my Government, as Mr. Landsborough (a resident for many years past in Queensland) was selected by us, and his equipment and instructions were prepared under our personal directions and supervision. The safe return of this exploring party and of that under the command of Mr. Walker (which reached Port Denison in Northern Queensland a short time back) are also subjects for general congratulation. It will be remembered